

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE/OSD/DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, PFOR, NO, SW

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FIGHTER PROGRAM: NORWEGIAN VISITORS

COMMENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 0061

SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN AIR FORCE VISITOR'S TO STOCKHOLM VOICE PERSONAL ENTHUSIASM FOR F-16, BELIEVE FRG PREFERS TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, AND EXPECT US NAVY CHOICE OF Y-17 WOULD KEEP YF-17 OPTION ALIVE FOR FOUR-POWER CONSORTIUM CONSIDERATION.
END SUMMARY

1. DURING RECEPTION AT NORWEGIAN EMBASSY JANUARY 21, DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS APPROACHED BY COMMANDANT OF NORWEGIAN ARMED FORCES COLLEGE, FORMERLY C-IN-C NAF, AND BY A FORMER MEMBER NORWEGIAN AIR FORCE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT EVALUATION TEAM. BOTH WERE VISITING STOCKHOLM. WHEN ASKED "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE USAF SELECTION OF THE F-16?" THE RESPONSE FROM BOTH NAF OFFICERS WAS POSITIVE. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT NAF OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE F-16 AS THE REPLACEMENT FOR PRESENT INVENTORY.

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2. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION BOTH OFFICERS TURNED TO SUBJECT OF THE YF-17. THEY WERE POSITIVE IN THEIR BELIEF THAT WEST GERMANY WOULD BUY NOTHING BUT A TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT.

3. IT WAS APPARENT ALSO THAT THEY CONSIDERED IT JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE U.S. NAVY WOULD DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE YF-17. THEY SEEMED TO PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE POINT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE USAF HAS ALREADY SELECTED THE F-16, THE YF-17 REMAINS AN OPTION UNDER CONSORTIUM CONSIDERATION, AND ESPECIALLY "IF AND WHEN" THE USN ANNOUNCES SUCH SELECTION.

4. RE SWEDISH-NORWEGIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, IT WAS CONSPICUOUS THAT SWEDISH DEFENSE MINISTER HOLMQVIST REMAINED DURING ENTIRE NINETY MINUTE RECEPTION. NORMALLY THE DEFENSE MINISTER DOES NOT ACCEPT INVITATIONS FOR SUCH FUNCTIONS. OTHER FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES COMMENTED ON THIS POINT. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE SWedes INTEND TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH NORWAY, AT ALL LEVELS RE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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